



# ACP<sup>®</sup>

American College of Physicians  
Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives

# Wisconsin Chapter

# 2025 AWARDS

## RECIPIENTS:

### **ADDIS COSTELLO INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*Laura Hawks, MD, MPH*

### **SHARON HAASE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH AWARD**

*PAVE*

*(Protect Advocate Validate Educate)*

### **COMMUNITY-BASED PHYSICIAN AND MENTOR AWARD**

*Keshani Bhushan, MD, FACP*

### **HELEN DICKIE DISTINGUISHED INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*Shobhina Chheda, MD, MPH, FACP*

### **EARLY CAREER INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

*Abdul Wahab Arif, MD and  
Brian Quinn, MD, FACP*

### **WISCONSIN ACP CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD**

*Rupesh Prasad, MD, MBA, FACP*

### **LAUREATE AWARD**

*Ian Gilson, MD, FACP*

### **LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*Senator Jeffrey E. Smith*

### **VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

*Sophie Kramer, MD, FACP*

### **RESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

*Ahmed El Shaer, MBBS,  
Apurva Popat, MD and  
David Deemer, MD*

# ADDIS COSTELLO INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Laura Hawks, MD, MPH**, is the 2025 recipient of the **Addis Costello Internist of the Year Award**, which honors a physician whose work addressing the socioeconomic aspects of medicine exemplifies and extends the legacy of Dr. Addis Costello, a Milwaukee physician who worked tirelessly to address socioeconomic hurdles associated with the delivery of healthcare.

Dr. Hawks is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of

Wisconsin, where she also practices as a general internist. Her clinical work is centered on providing primary care to vulnerable populations, including individuals who have experienced incarceration or homelessness. Her dedication to health equity is evident in both her clinical practice and her research, which focuses on the intersection of health and the criminal legal system, particularly chronic disease among historically underserved populations.

Dr. Hawks has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts on health disparities and has led several foundation-funded initiatives in collaboration with community organizations to expand healthcare access and education within the Wisconsin prison system. She also spearheaded a collaborative effort with Wisconsin Medicaid and correctional system leaders to improve reentry health practices, demonstrating her commitment to systemic change.

Currently supported by a career development grant, Dr. Hawks is developing and testing interventions aimed at improving health outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal legal system. Her work is distinguished by its integration of rigorous research and deep community engagement, including partnerships with individuals with lived experience to ensure interventions are both effective and equitable.

Her nominator writes, "Dr. Hawks' contributions toward addressing health disparities, her leadership in creating meaningful academic-community collaborations, and her tireless advocacy for system-based changes make her an outstanding candidate for the Addis Costello Internist of the Year Award."

# SHARON HAASE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH AWARD

**PAVE (Protect Advocate Validate Educate)** is the 2025 recipient of the **Sharon Haase Advancement of Women's Health Award**, which recognizes a physician, resident, student, lay person, or community organization that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of women's health.



Founded in 1978, PAVE has long been a vital force in supporting survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. In recent years, the organization has transformed its approach to violence prevention and trauma-informed care, implementing innovative, evidence-based strategies that have significantly advanced public health and safety in Wisconsin.



*Emily Shier*

Among its most impactful initiatives is the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), which enables law enforcement and community partners to identify individuals at high risk for intimate partner homicide and connect them with life-saving resources. PAVE also leads comprehensive family and youth advocacy programs, including Discovery Dating Groups for teens, which promote healthy relationships, consent education, and peer-led outreach in both English- and Spanish-speaking communities.

Recognizing the critical need for inclusive dialogue around dating violence, PAVE has also tailored programming to engage individuals who identify as male. These targeted programs not only educate but also foster a culture of respect and accountability, ultimately contributing to a significant reduction in violent behaviors.

In 2024, after engaging in an expansive statewide capital campaign, this rural non-profit achieved the near-impossible by opening a \$4 million facility where survivors have found safety, shelter, healing, and hope. The facility is an inclusive space serving a diversity community of clients providing empowerment and increased understanding of resources available.

PAVE's nominator writes, "Their innovative programs and dedication to service have set a standard that inspires others in the field and drives meaningful change in Wisconsin. They are an invaluable part of the health and wellbeing of our city and county here in Beaver Dam, WI."

# COMMUNITY-BASED PHYSICIAN AND MENTOR AWARD



**Keshani Bhushan, MD, FACP**, is the 2025 recipient of the **Community-Based Physician and Mentor Award**, which recognizes exceptional community preceptors who have demonstrated a voluntary commitment to teaching and mentoring students and/or internal medicine residents.

Dr. Bhushan is a hospitalist at Marshfield Medical Center in the Weston/Wausau region, where she also serves as the Hospitalist Medical Director. In this role, she has been a

transformative leader, fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence in patient care.

In addition, Dr. Bhushan serves as the Medical Director for the Marathon County Public Health Department and as an executive member of the Marathon County Medical Society Board. Her influence extends across local and regional healthcare systems, where she consistently champions quality care and educational excellence.

Dr. Bhushan's dedication to teaching has been recognized with the Society of Teaching Scholars Preceptor Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2019. She holds clinical adjunct academic appointments at both the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin. In these roles, she continues to inspire and educate the next generation of healthcare professionals.

An active member of ACP since residency, Dr. Bhushan currently serves as Vice-Chair of the ACP Wisconsin Chapter's JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee, a member of the Hospitalist Committee, and an at-large member of the ACP Governor's Council. Her advocacy for inclusive, equitable healthcare and her commitment to mentorship exemplify the spirit of this award.

Her nominator writes, "Dr. Bhushan's tireless efforts to advance medical education, improve healthcare delivery, and mentor the next generation of physicians make her an ideal candidate for this recognition. Her leadership, vision, and commitment to excellence have had a transformative effect on her community and the field of medicine as a whole."

## HELEN DICKIE DISTINGUISHED INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Shobhina Chheda, MD, MPH, FACP**, is the 2025 recipient of the **Helen Dickie Distinguished Internist of the Year Award**.

This award honors a career of exceptional effort and contribution to the science and art of internal medicine in keeping with the ideals and mission of the College.

Dr. Chheda is a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She is one of the rare “dualists”, serving as both a primary care general internist as well as a hospitalist on the general medicine teaching service at UW Hospital in Madison. She is also a recognized leader locally and nationally and was chosen to participate in AAMC’s prestigious professional development program, Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM).



Over the course of her three-decade career, Dr. Chheda has become a nationally recognized leader in medical education. Since 2017, she has served as Associate Dean for Medical Education at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Nationally, she has had great influence on educational direction of internal medicine as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM) and previously as the President of the national Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM).

Dr. Chheda has led transformative educational initiatives at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, including the transition to the ForWard Curriculum in 2016. She has been the principal investigator on multi-million-dollar Wisconsin Partnership Program strategic educational grants, the most recent of which aims to build a center of innovation and educational scholarship.

Her nominator writes, “Dr. Shobhi Chheda’s career is a testament to her unwavering commitment to both medical education and the field of internal medicine. Her achievements, leadership, and dedication make her a well-deserving candidate for the Helen Dickie Distinguished Internist of the Year Award.”

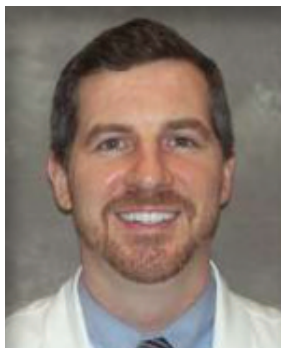
# EARLY CAREER INTERNIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS



**Abdul Wahab Arif, MD**

**Abdul Wahab Arif, MD** and **Brian Quinn, MD, FACP** are the 2025 recipients of the **Early Career Internist of the Year Award**, which recognizes the outstanding contributions of early career internists in clinical practice, research, and/or medical education.

**Dr. Abdul Wahab Arif** started his career as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in 2022. In his first year, Dr. Arif founded the International Medical Student Observership Program at UW Health, which has since welcomed more than 100 students from seven countries, providing international medical graduates with the opportunity to gain clinical experience in the United States. More than 30 participants have successfully matched into U.S. internal medicine residency programs, making the program a powerful tool for addressing physician shortages and promoting diversity in medicine.



**Brian Quinn, MD, FACP**

Dr. Arif also teaches and mentors medical students and residents, leads simulation and code status sessions, and serves on the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health admissions committee. He was recognized with the Department of Medicine's Star Educator Award in 2023. As Chair of the ACP-Wisconsin International Medical Graduate Committee, he has collaborated with regional and national ACP chapters to support international medical graduates. Dr. Arif will soon begin a cardiology fellowship at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, where he plans to continue his work in education and advocacy.

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His nominator writes, “Dr. Arif’s visionary leadership and commitment to education have had an extraordinary impact in a remarkably short time.”

**Dr. Brian Quinn** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he serves as Associate Chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine. He chairs the section’s Quality Improvement (QI) Affinity Group and represents the section on the Department of Medicine’s QI Committee. Dr. Quinn is highly respected by both colleagues and learners. He is a wonderful clinician and educator and has received the Outstanding Medical Student Teacher Award on several occasions, testimony to his dedication to the education of the next generation. He has mentored numerous students and residents, providing critical support to their scholarly productivity and professional growth.

Dr. Quinn plays a key role in the ACP Wisconsin Chapter as faculty advisor for Medical College of Wisconsin’s Medical Student ACP Committee and his leadership has helped facilitate the submission of over 100 clinical vignettes and research presentations to the ACP-WI Scientific Meeting, significantly enhancing student and resident engagement with the College.

His nominator writes, “Dr. Quinn’s dedication to mentorship, quality improvement, and academic excellence makes him a role model for early career physicians.”

# WISCONSIN ACP CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD



**Rupesh Prasad, MD, MBA, FACP**, is the 2025 recipient of the **Wisconsin ACP Chapter Service Award**, which recognizes outstanding commitment and service to the ACP Wisconsin Chapter.

Dr. Prasad has been a dedicated hospitalist since 2005, beginning his career with the Marshfield Clinic Health System in Wausau and currently serving at Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee. He holds credentials as a Certified Physician Executive, with an MBA in Healthcare Management, and fellowship

with the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians.

Throughout his career, Dr. Prasad has held numerous leadership roles, including President of the Medical Staff at Aurora Sinai, Medical Director of Care Management, Quality and Utilization Officer, and Co-Chair of the Inpatient Physician Informatics Committee. He is also a passionate educator, serving as a Clinical Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Physician Assistant Studies program at Marquette University. He has mentored countless internal medicine residents, medical students, and PA students over the years.

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a long-standing member of the ACP Wisconsin Chapter, Dr. Prasad has served the chapter with the highest distinction, most notably as Chapter Treasurer under three consecutive governors providing critical continuity during a myriad of financial challenges. He leads the Finance Committee and is an active member of the Executive Committees and is widely respected by the Wisconsin Chapter for his thoughtful leadership, financial stewardship, and calm, reasoned guidance during complex decision-making.

His nominator writes, "Dr. Prasad's contributions to the field of internal medicine and the ACP Wisconsin Chapter are profound. He is a voice of reason, a trusted advisor, and a tireless advocate for excellence in medicine and medical education."



# LAUREATE AWARD



The **Laureate Award** is the highest distinction bestowed on a physician and honors ACP Fellows and MACPs who have demonstrated a remarkable career committed to excellence in medical care, education, or research, in service to their community, their Chapter, and the College.

**Ian Gilson, MD, FACP**, is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Gilson moved to Milwaukee in 1977 to practice General Internal Medicine.

His practice grew and Dr. Gilson was recognized by many as one of the top General Internal Medicine physicians in Milwaukee where he became known for his clinical skill and dedication to his patients. After devoting an extraordinary 48 years to the care of his patients, he retired from practice earlier this year. While always placing the care of his patients at the center of his work, Dr. Gilson's remarkable career demonstrates a far-reaching impact on his community and our profession.

In 1981, with the outbreak of HIV pandemic, and driven by his passion for understanding this new and mysterious disease, Dr. Gilson's career took a decided turn. He devoted himself to learning about this new disease and became one of the region's leaders in care for patients with HIV. Dr. Gilson became a frequent attendee and speaker at some of the early international AIDS conferences. The devastating nature of this disease and limited treatment options early in the pandemic meant that many of Dr. Gilson's patients had a very poor prognosis. He pivoted to become an advocate for the legal and ethical necessity of providing humane, compassionate, and clinically excellent care for patients who often had limited personal and financial resources. Dr. Gilson developed close relationships with several patients and together with these patients and his nursing colleagues, Dr. Gilson was a leader in HIV education in the Milwaukee area and a vocal and passionate advocate for the rights of those who were often severely marginalized by their communities, friends, and family members. Always someone who wanted to get to the root of every problem, Dr. Gilson was also drawn to become involved in the care of patients suffering from opioid use disorder and became one of the

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first physicians at the Medical College of Wisconsin to incorporate buprenorphine treatment into his clinical practice.

Dr. Gilson's contributions to the field are not limited to clinical care. He was a co-investigator in some of the early clinical trials of antiretroviral therapy to find treatments that were less toxic for his patients. Some of this work culminated in important early publications on antiretroviral therapies in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Recognizing that defeating HIV required not only effective drugs, but also functional delivery systems, Dr. Gilson and his nursing colleagues formed lasting partnerships with clinics in Africa, including Kenya and Uganda. He initiated a series of annual trips to help train the physicians and nurses who worked in these underserved and sometimes rural communities and for decades served as an advisor to some of the region's most effective antiretroviral therapy programs.

Dr. Gilson's dedication to the care of his patients and first-hand knowledge of the inequities of the US healthcare system has inspired his passion for advocacy. He has been a former chair and pillar of the Wisconsin Chapter's Health and Public Policy Committee. Dr. Gilson is also a member of Doctors Without Borders and Physicians for Social Responsibility. As an early supporter of the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Gilson was invited to meet with President Obama at the White House in 2009. Most recently, Dr. Gilson has been leading ACP Wisconsin's efforts to combat the problem of medical misinformation and disinformation.

Dr. Gilson has been an ACP member since 1977. He became a Fellow of the College in 1997 and has received numerous awards from the Wisconsin Chapter including the Distinguished Internist of the Year (1997) and the Addis Costello Award (2023). His passion for teaching has made him the recipient of multiple teaching awards from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

His nominator states, "Dr. Gilson has been recognized by his peers as one of the best internal medicine doctors in Milwaukee for many years. He has taught, mentored, and inspired many others to pursue careers in internal medicine."

Dr. Gilson's long career is an example to all as is his dedication to clinical excellence, education, and the advancement of sound medical science. It is our honor to award Dr. Gilson the 2025 Laureate Award from the ACP Wisconsin Chapter.

# LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Wisconsin's 31st District **Senator Jeff Smith** is the 2025 recipient of the ACP-Wisconsin **Legislator of the Year Award**, which recognizes the efforts of an individual or group of state legislators who have diligently worked to promote the medical health and wellness of Wisconsin residents.

Senator Smith serves western Wisconsin, including the Eau Claire and Chippewa Valley areas. When healthcare in his district was devastated by the closure of two important area hospitals in early 2024, Senator Smith stepped up to the plate to understand the impact on patients, health care providers, and community health.

Senator Smith has shown leadership in listening to constituents and engaging with area health care providers to try to mitigate the loss of access and the economic impact on health care workers. He has worked toward releasing money designated by the legislature to support the areas of need identified by the community as most important, including mental health, urgent care, and obstetric services. In addition, Senator Smith proposed a legislative study group to study the issue of rural health system viability.

Senator Smith serves as the ranking Democrat on the Wisconsin Senate Health Committee, where he is helping bring forward important legislation that aligns with ACP priorities, including expansion of Medicaid for mothers postpartum to 12 months and for Wisconsin to accept the opportunity for expanded federal support of Medicaid.

# VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Sophie Kramer, MD, FACP**, is the 2025 recipient of the **Volunteerism and Community Service Award**, which recognizes the volunteer and community service of ACP Wisconsin Chapter members.

Dr. Kramer is an internist currently serving as a member of the Home-Based Primary Care Program in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She has dedicated her career to serving underserved populations, working in communities such as Chippewa Falls and Milwaukee until more recently moving to Madison.



Her commitment to community service began during residency, where she volunteered at a free clinic for the homeless and uninsured in Portland. Since then, she has continued to provide care at similar clinics in a variety of locations in Wisconsin. Since 2020, Dr. Kramer has been a regular volunteer at HealthNet of Rock County, where she has established a continuity internal medicine practice focused on managing chronic conditions.

Dr. Kramer's volunteerism extends beyond clinical care. She has served her church, local schools, the League of Women Voters, and refugee support organizations. One of her most meaningful roles was serving for many years on the board of the Fondy Food Center in Milwaukee, which supports local farmers and operates a farmers' market in a community underserved by grocery stores. Her work with Fondy reflects her passion for food justice.

In addition, Dr. Kramer has been a dedicated leader within the ACP Wisconsin Chapter and the Wisconsin Medical Society. She has served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Public Policy Committee and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, advocating for public health issues such as firearm injury prevention, hospital-at-home care, traffic safety, and electronic health record reform.

Her nominator writes, "Dr. Kramer's tireless efforts, compassionate care, and leadership in community service make her an exemplary candidate for this honor. She continues to inspire those around her with her selfless dedication to serving others."

# 2025 RESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS



**Ahmed El Shaer, MD**

**Ahmed El Shaer, MD** and **Apurva Popat, MD** are the 2025 recipients of the **Resident of the Year Award**, which recognizes the outstanding contributions of residents at Wisconsin's internal medicine residency programs in the areas of clinical care, advocacy, teaching, mentoring, or research. **David Deemer, MD** is a 2024 recipient.

**Dr. Ahmed El Shaer** is a resident at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, where he has distinguished himself as a clinician, educator, and researcher. Known for his clinical acumen and professionalism, Dr. El Shaer has earned praise by peers and faculty alike for his calm, supportive teaching style and his ability to foster a positive learning environment.

Dr. El Shaer has demonstrated a deep commitment to community service, securing a grant to provide healthcare equipment to a local homeless shelter. He has also been active in the ACP Wisconsin Chapter, winning the Best Oral Presentation Award at the 2023 chapter meeting for an interesting case of Fabry's Disease. With 28 publications to date,

Dr. El Shaer's research contributions are exceptional. He has presented nationally at the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology meetings and has led innovative studies in pulmonary hypertension and heart failure. He was recently selected and will serve as a UW Chief Resident for the 2025-26 academic year.

**Dr. Apurva Popat** is a resident at Marshfield Clinic and a dynamic leader in clinical education, advocacy, and scholarly activity. He has twice been named Resident of the Year at his institution and is widely recognized for his excellence in bedside teaching and didactic instruction. Dr. Popat has published extensively in cardiology, primary care, and point-of-care ultrasonography.

Within the ACP Wisconsin Chapter, Dr. Popat has made significant contributions as a member of the Health and Public Policy Committee, the Gun Violence Prevention Committee, and the International Medical

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Graduate Committee. He authored an op-ed on gun violence in the Wisconsin State Journal and created advocacy infographics for ACP's 2024 Advocacy Corner. He represented the chapter at ACP Leadership Day in Washington, D.C., advocating for key legislative initiatives. At the September 2024 ACP Wisconsin meeting, Dr. Popat was the runner-up in the oral presentation competition and was a member of the winning resident team for the annual Jeopardy competition.

## 2024 RESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD



**Dr. David Deemer** is a graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, where in addition to his MD degree, he also completed a Masters in Bioethics. He then completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin, finishing both the TEACH and Health Equity pathways. He has made significant contributions to health policy, serving as an active member of the ACP-Wisconsin Resolutions and Health and Public Policy Committees. In 2024, Dr. Deemer was also selected as a recipient of chapter funding

to attend ACP Leadership Day in Washington D.C. He has shown a keen interest in how the built environment affects health and well-being, authoring a resolution addressing Traffic Safety that our chapter will submit to ACP National for consideration. Dr. Deemer was also a member of the Dane County and Wisconsin Medical Societies and has volunteered at the UW MEDiC free clinic.

In the summer of 2024, Dr. Deemer began an Integrated Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine and Hospice & Palliative Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY.

Dr. Deemer's published articles focus on the exploration of architecture and social connection as well as age-friendly environments. In 2022, he co-authored a Hastings Center Report entitled "The Bioethics of Built Space: Health Care Architecture as a Medical Intervention" and was also an invited speaker on this topic at the Harvard Bioethics Center, Boston MA.

# 2025 NEW FACPs

Sushma Bangalore Raju, MD, FACP

Matthew Bauer, MD, FACP

Rohan K. Bodapati, MD, FACP

Emily C. Dolan, MD, FACP

Toni-Denise P. Espina, MD, FACP

Maryam L. Famouri, MD, FACP

Sarah L. Floden, MD, FACP

Ali Ibrahim Gardezi, MD, FACP

Derek Hupp, MD, FACP

Jeremy W. Jaskunas, MD, FACP

Chamil V. Jinadasa, MBBS, FACP

Biana Leybishkis, MD, FACP

Charles W. Nordstrom, MD, FACP

Ashley M. Osenga, MD, FACP

Adam Pampori, MD, FACP

Charlene M. Sealy, MD, FACP

Abhijai Singh, MD, FACP

Sanjay K. Singh, MBBS, MD, FACP

Cullen Trangsrud, MD, FACP

# 2025 ACP-WI NARRATIVE MEDICINE COMPETITION WINNERS

## JUDGED WINNERS

### ESSAY:

**Arjan Bindra**

Medical Student

*"Before You Call Them  
Difficult"*

### POETRY:

**Connor Pedersen, MD**

Resident

*"You, or Someone Like You"*

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS

### ESSAY:

**Mukul Sharda**

*"She Was Watching  
Over Me"*

### POETRY:

**Mahmoud Awad, MD**

*"Still Life at the Ice  
Cream Parlor"*



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*Congratulations  
to this year's  
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